

DT01 Rec'd PCT/PTC 19 JAN 2005

In the claims

The following amendments are made with respect to the claims in the international application PCT/JP03/09324.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1 (Original). An agent comprising a phosphorylated dextran as an active ingredient, and having an immunopotentiating activity.

2 (Original). The agent of claim 1, wherein the agent is a B cell-specific mitogen.

3 (Original). The agent of claim 1, wherein the immunopotentiating activity is a blastogenic activity.

4 (Original). The agent of claim 1, wherein the immunopotentiating activity is an activity of inducing interferon γ (IFN- γ) or interleukin 10 (IL-10).

5 (Original). A pharmaceutical composition for preventing, improving, or treating infectious diseases, colitis, or allergic diseases, wherein the composition comprises a phosphorylated dextran as an active ingredient.

6 (Original). A food composition for preventing or improving infectious diseases, colitis, or allergic diseases, wherein the composition comprises a phosphorylated dextran as an active ingredient.

7 (Original). A method for immunopotentiating a cell, which comprises the step of contacting the cell with a phosphorylated dextran.

8 (Original). The method of claim 7, wherein the immunopotential is blastogenesis.

9 (Original). The method of claim 7, wherein the immunopotential is the induction of interferon γ (IFN- γ) or interleukin 10 (IL-10).

10 (Currently amended). The method of ~~any one of claims 7 to 9~~ claim 7, wherein the cells are derived from spleen cells or dendritic cells.

11 (Original). A method for producing a phosphorylated dextran, which comprises the step of reacting a dextran with polyphosphoric acid in a formaldehyde solution.

12 (Original). The method of claim 11, wherein a dextran and polyphosphoric acid are reacted under heat.

13 (Currently amended). The composition of claim 5-~~or~~6, wherein the phosphorylated dextran is produced by a method comprising the following steps of:

- (a) reacting a dextran with a phosphate buffer under heat;
- (b) freeze-drying the reaction solution of step (a); and
- (c) heating the freeze-dried sample of step (b) at 100-160°C for 24 hours.

14 (New). The composition of claim 6, wherein the phosphorylated dextran is produced by a method comprising the following steps of:

- (a) reacting a dextran with a phosphate buffer under heat;
- (b) freeze-drying the reaction solution of step (a); and
- (c) heating the freeze-dried sample of step (b) at 100-160°C for 24 hours.

15 (New). The method of claim 8, wherein the cells are derived from spleen cells or dendritic cells.

16 (New). The method of claim 9, wherein the immunopotential is the induction of interferon γ (IFN- γ) or interleukin 10 (IL-10).